



The OSCILLATOR

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AUGUST 2012



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Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club



PREXY'S PROSE

Finally summer has arrived. During Field Day, no one was sure we would ever see warmer and drier weather again. However, we still were able to achieve a record number of contacts. The camaraderie was great and operators did a wonderful job. The goal was to make 1600 contacts and we were able to make approximately 2300.

It would have been nice to have had more visitors to see our operation and get a chance to operate our GOTA radio. The rain and chilly weather prevented a larger number of visitors.

Congratulations to everyone who volunteered whether they operated, helped with setup and tear down, cooked, or just came to wish us well. Field Day isn't just about operating in a field environment, but also is a good time for "hams" to get together and "rag chew" face to face.

We had a fantastic turnout at Sea-Pac. The 30th year celebration was fun and successful. Kudos to Al Berg, Will Sheffield, Darwin Durr, and Wayne Schuler for doing a great job at shepherding the event. Also, thanks are in order for all the volunteers who helped to make it a big success. I am looking forward to Sea-Pac next year. It is now known across the U.S. and will only get better with your help.

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2012 FIELD DAY RECAP

This years Field Day is behind us. The report for Club Station W7OTV has been transmitted to ARRL Headquarters, club and borrowed equipment has been put away till the next operating event and lessons have been learned for next year. We remember Field Day 2008 for the extreme heat we suffered through. 2012 will be remembered for our wet very un-summer like weather.

Field Day is many things, to many people, including a chance to get away from home, just visit or camp-out if you like, picnic style meals, our club sponsored Saturday evening barbecue, a great time to socialize with friends and family, a chance to meet new people and on top of all that, operate on VHF and HF bands using CW, SSB and digital modes. Anyone who fully participates in our OTVARC Field Day should go home tired, but satisfied from a job well done!

The ARRL defines the object of Field Day as follows: "To work as many stations as possible on any and all amateur bands,

Go to Field Day, Page 5

CLUB MONTHLY MEETING Thursday, August 16th

The August Club Meeting will be the Annual BBQ and Ice Cream Social, held on Thursday, August 16th at Rood Bridge Park, 4000 SE Rood Bridge Road, Hillsboro. We have reserved the Middle Shelter from 3:00 to 9:00 pm. Here is a map to the park:

<http://tinyurl.com/roodbridgepk>

Vice President, Robert WN7O, is serving as our coordinator this year. He promises BBQs will be available to prepare your favorite meat. Bring your picnic dinner. The club will provide water and iced tea. Plan on dinner around 6:00 pm.

The Ice Cream Social is a highlight of our year. We ask you to bring ice cream and toppings to share. Some will be bringing home made ice cream (some will be sugar free). We'll share ice cream about 7:00 pm

Contact Robert at 503.524.7547 or kcrocker at comcast dot net

OTVARC is affiliated with ARRL: The National Association for Amateur Radio and is a Special Service Club. Check the map at: tinyurl.com/otvarc-site
Questions? otvarc@gmail.com

PUBLIC SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Bikes, bridges and a bonus event are in store for the 17th annual Providence Bridge Pedal and Stride. Since 1996, this is the only opportunity each year to enjoy the Willamette River bridges – including the top decks of the

Providence Bridge Pedal

Fremont and Marquam bridges – from the best possible vantage point: the seat of a bicycle. Avid cyclists and novice pedalers, young and old, savor this opportunity. With bike rides from 13 to 36 miles, as well as a six-mile walk, the event offers choices appropriate for everyone. For the first time in four years, all ten of Portland's Willamette River bridges are available for Providence Bridge Pedal.

A portion of the Providence Bridge Pedal proceeds will boost Providence Heart and Vascular Institute's efforts to save the lives of people suffering cardiac arrest. Ham radio provides support for the event. Contact Jim Schaeffer KB7ADH to offer your help. Additional hams are needed.

Hood To Coast is coming August 24. Thanks to everyone who has contacted us and volunteered for this year's race. We still need ham operators for this public service event. We have many shifts left to fill. If you know of a new ham that would like to volunteer please let me know or forward this to them. There is a registration web site setup for the HAM operators this year. This system is similar to what HTC has been using to register the team volunteers. The link to the website is ham.hoodtocoast.com. If you have not done so already, please go to the registration website to create an account and select the shifts you would like to cover. Once a shift is taken it will be removed from the list. Thanks, Chad Geritz K7CKG, Communications Coordinator.



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Take a look at how you might be able to volunteer for Sea-Pac. Now it is time to turn to the coming year. The ice cream social in August is coming on rapidly. I will be working with you all in recruiting new members, looking at activities that the club can be engaged in, and ways to increase attendance at club meetings. As always I am open to suggestions from club members to improve meetings and increase our membership. So, I will sign off now.

73 to you all, Herb Hirst K7HLH

FIFTH WEDNESDAY AUGUST 29TH

Have some fun, and increase your operating skills. Join us August 29th for a 2-meter simplex contest. We meet on 147.54 MHz simplex from 8:00 to 9:00 pm Pacific time. The exchange is your classification (Class A is more than 5 watts; Class B is 5 watts or less, both single operator. Class C is multiple operator) and your Zip Code.

Logs are sent to Janet Bell WB7FJC. An award is given in each class for each occasion.

Check out information at:

www.otvarc.org/FifthWednesday.htm

Race for the Cure is coming September 16. In 2012, Race For The Cure celebrates it's 29th anniversary. The Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure is the largest series of 5K runs/fitness walks in the world, with well over one million participants since 2005.

The Race for the Cure raises significant funds and awareness for the fight against breast cancer, celebrates breast cancer survivorship, and honors those who have lost their battle with the disease. The Race Website indicates that "...Up to 75 percent of the net income from each domestic Affiliate Race stays in the local community to fund breast health education and breast cancer screening and treatment projects." Contact Barbara Yasson AC7US at byasson@pacifier.com. She is the coordinator.

Jim Schaeffer KB7ADH



MICKLEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

OTVARC is pleased to award the 2012 Chuck Mickley Memorial Scholarship to John Wheeler KD7YZD, of Beavercreek, Oregon. John is attending Seattle Pacific University where he majors in Electrical Engineering with an eye toward a career in public safety communications.

First licensed in 2003, John upgraded to his General Class License in 2007, and began participating in Clackamas County ARES. He took training in Incident Command and Emergency Management and rapidly became a valued team member, coordinating the programming of amateur transceivers used by Clackamas Fire, developing their operational template, and participating in drills and public service events. He was recognized by the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners and their Emergency Manager for his role in their H1N1 outbreak response and support for the ARES program.

In 2011, John was honored by the ARRL Foundation with The William Bennett W7PHO Memorial Scholarship. Since moving to Seattle, John has become involved with Seattle Auxiliary Communications Service, in addition, to being in the leadership of the campus men's ministry and occasionally working a bit of QRP HF from his dorm room. During school breaks you can often find John working at HRO in Tigard.

OTVARC expresses congratulations to John. We look forward to seeing John's contributions to Amateur Radio and his community in the future.

THE TRAVELERS' RV GROUP

The TRAVELERS' is a collection of OTVARC members and friends who spend weekends camping each summer. Details on dates, wagonmasters, and locations may be obtained from:

Dick Ballard W7AND
503.646.4503
or dickballard@comcast.net

A full listing of The TRAVELERS' events may be found at www.otvarc.org/travelers/index.html

THE CONTEST GROUP

OTVARC'S CONTEST GROUP sponsors events giving members and friends an opportunity to observe and operate in contest events as a group. Here is an opportunity to increase your skills while enjoying the company of other participating hams.

If you're curious about how contests work or want to increase your own contest techniques, this is for you. Plans are being made to hold several events this Fall and Winter. Ron KD7VIK coordinates. You should let him know you'd like to be in the list of people to be invited. These are open events and any member may participate.

One goal for the OTVARC Communications Trailer is to use it to offer public events where amateur radio may be demonstrated. Some contest events lend themselves to this use.

TECHNICIAN CLASSES IN AUGUST

GET YOUR TECHNICIAN HAM LICENSE

August 11, 18, 25
1:00 - 4:00 pm

Classes will be held on Saturdays
in August
in the Training Room
Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue
13810 SW Farmington Rd
Beaverton 97005
(between Menlo & 139th)

There is no charge for the classes.

Check details at:

[http://www.otvarc.org/Classes/
TechnicianClass.html](http://www.otvarc.org/Classes/TechnicianClass.html)

Contact Janet Bell WB7FJC
at wb7fjc@arrl.net

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION

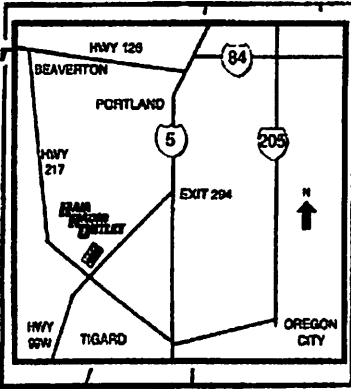


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TETHERSAT IN JULY 2013

Electrodynamic tether propulsion has the potential to make space travel significantly cheaper. It is a simplified, very low-budget magnetic sail. It can be used either to accelerate or brake an orbiting spacecraft. When direct current is pumped through the tether, it exerts a Lorentz force against the magnetic field, and the tether accelerates the spacecraft. The Lorentz force is the force on a point charge due to electromagnetic fields.

Potentially this technique could be used to raise the orbit of a satellite from 600 to 1000 km using a Ward Spiral maneuver, a type of orbit transfer. Tethersat-1 & 2 will test Electrodynamic Tether Propulsion in July 2013.

Tethersat is an amateur radio satellite, a 3U CubeSat that splits into two joined by a 1 km tether. It is designed to test electrodynamic tether propulsion. Both spacecraft will use 9600 bps AX25 GFSK packet downlinks on UHF. A launch is planned on ORS-3 from the Wallops Flight Facility on Wallops Island, Virginia.

Amateur Radio is still on the cutting edge of discovery.

AMATEUR RADIO IN CHINA

Today, there are fewer than 20,000 licensed radio amateur operators in mainland China. Although the political and commercial atmosphere has changed, the fifty-year lapse in amateur radio activity is difficult to overcome. Many influential people in China are encouraging the development of amateur radio due to emergency communication needs and commercial development in electronics. These are leading to more applicants successfully achieving a license. There are two important radio organizations in China.

The older Chinese Radio Sports Association (CRSA) oversaw the operation of amateur radio from 1958 until 2009. A new organization, Radio Association of China (RAC) was born in 2009 and now oversees the expansion of amateur radio. The CRSA operated the first club station, BY1PK beginning in 1958.



The CRSA is one of 29 member societies in IARU Region 3, which includes ARRL and the United Kingdom as well due to possessions in Oceania. Region 3 includes Asia and Oceania.

Radio organizations in China are concentrating their energy on improving the licensing system so that newcomers, all over the country, are able to seek their ham license. The next major emphasis is linking traditional amateur radio, i.e. DX, contesting, and CW with contemporary internet, networking, and miniature radio design.

ADVERTISE IN THE OSCILLATOR?

Your business advertising in THE OSCILLATOR is seen each month by members and friends who read THE OSCILLATOR. To include your "Business Card" ad - DC Power size (\$48.00 annually) or "Display" - HRO size ad (\$60.00 annually), contact us at:

otvarc@gmail.com

We'll work with you to produce an ad that keeps you before our members.

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(excluding 60, 30, 17 and 12-meter bands) and in doing so to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions. A premium is placed on developing skills to meet the challenges of emergency preparedness as well as to acquaint the general public with the capabilities of Amateur Radio."

Field Day without a major emphasis on operating would be just a camp-out and barbecue with some opportunities to demonstrate our hobby to and visit with the general public. We need to say a big thank you to all the volunteers behind the scenes who looked after the sign-in sheets, provided hospitality for club members and visitors, provided all our meals and worked on the many projects needed to complete our multiple "Bonus Point" activities. Without your work our Field Days just wouldn't be the same. Thank you all!

Set-up began Friday afternoon with the arrival of the Club trailer. Soon after the trailer was positioned a demonstration HF station with a vertical antenna was assembled using the trailer as an operating location. Erection of both the SSB and CW shelters soon followed. By dinner time all the SSB antennas were in place and planning for the lay-out of the CW antennas was completed, but rain delayed their final assembly until Saturday morning. Antennas were also placed on "VHF hill" the usual location for that part of our operation. Final installation and assembly of the operating positions, "OTVARC power and light" and the computer logging network waited till Saturday.

As Field Day Coordinator my primary personal goal is to assure that the time and effort spent assembling the equipment inventory, putting up effective antennas and assembling the best possible stations results in the best on-air presence possible from our location. Once everything was more-or-less ready and 11:00 AM Saturday arrived we fully committed ourselves to keeping all stations on the air for the next 24-hours.

For the fourth year in a row we operated as "4A-OR" (Four-alpha, Oregon) with two (2) CW/digital stations, two (2) SSB stations, one (1) "free" VHF/UHF station and a demonstration station.

This year several of our "usual suspects" were not able to attend Field Day. As a result CW, VHF and SSB locations were short several of the "old-hand" operators we count on to both operate stations and be "Elmers", bringing new people up to speed. As a result scheduling was a bigger than normal challenge, more about that later. On the plus side this year followed the usual pattern with several new people showing up to help. While we can't predict who may show-up each year, or what previous experience they might have, these folks always do a great job, even though time for instruction is limited.

Two challenges showed up early Saturday. At the time on-air operation started our computer network was still being set-up and not all antenna issues had been resolved. The N1MM logging software at each station can "stand alone" whenever the network is down, and then can be synchronized across the network later. When that occurred, an unexpected glitch temporarily "lost" more than 100 early CW contacts and several VHF contacts. These contacts were fortunately recovered after the contest.

The second early challenge was the sheer volume of stations sharing the few available open SSB bands. The two IC-756 Pro III's used for SSB have "band-scopes" which showed wall to wall signal spikes, all day long. The usual local mid-day D-layer signal absorption at our west-coast location did not stop us from hearing nearly everyone, but many could not hear us easily, giving an early advantage to east-coast and mid-west stations. Result for W7OTV was a painfully slow contact rate on 20-meter SSB for the first several hours. One bright spot was provided by Bill, K2PO with an early run of about 90 plus contacts on 40-meters. Later 15-meters provided some needed relief as well. Good results were seen by the VHF station with contacts mostly on 6-meters.

Propagation Saturday on several bands was good enough to allow a steady stream of successful CW contacts (CW Rocks!) all day Saturday. As the dinner hour arrived two things boosted the spirits of the flagging SSB team...our

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improving QSO rates as the earlier east-coast advantage decreased. The 10-meter band never did open, fortunately 15-meters did well for several hours before fading, leaving 20-meters as a "best bet" till well after sun-down and then the 40-meter band started to come back to life for the night.

Overnight operation continued with good numbers of 40 and 80-meters contacts made, though lack of "fresh" operators did leave some times with only one station active. SSB got a big boost when Gene, W17N took a late night turn after already completing one of several CW shifts.

Early Sunday morning several of our overworked Saturday operators and logger, assistants returned to the SSB effort after getting some much needed rest. By then the CW contact numbers were as usual way out ahead of SSB, but I'm happy to report that with much improved propagation Sunday, the log shows the CW versus SSB rate was about even all morning long. We also want to thank CW guru's, Carl, WS7L and Bill, K2PO for some last minute assistance while the CW stations were kept busy by others.

Tear down of the site went smoothly as usual with lots of great help and by mid afternoon Sunday, the day-use area at Hilltop had returned to its usual quite, peaceful self. Of course Mother Nature had the last say with a brief hale storm just as the club trailer was being hooked up for a tow home.

All operating modes easily met and exceeded their individual goals and our overall goal of 1,600 contacts for this year was also exceeded. Forty-eight (48) states and several Canadian Provinces were worked for a grand total of 2,269 QSO contacts as compared to a total of 1,353 in 2010. We also generated a very respectable 1,350 bonus points towards our final submitted 7,624 points for an increase of nearly 25% over last year.

A final note on scheduling

Without a doubt both the digital and VHF modes need more volunteers to make the most of these modes. CW requires skills not everyone one brings to the table, leaving SSB as perhaps the

See Next Column

"mode of chose" for beginners and many veteran

Field Day attendees alike.

We have tried several different ways to schedule volunteer operators and operating times for the SSB stations with very little success. People failed to show-up at all or missed their times, decided to do something else, etc. This year we asked via e-mail several things, including who was planning to attend Field Day, and what people were interested in helping with. From the more than 185 OTVARC members we received a response from about 10-15 %. Not all responses were from people who could be there.

Many of the positive responses did indicate an interest in operating on SSB. A list with all those names was developed as a scheduling tool in an effort to accommodate everyone's interest. A fair share of those people also planned to help with other scheduled activities, so we needed to work around time conflicts as well.

A fair percentage of the people on that list did not ultimately attend Field Day, for various very good reasons I'm sure. Several others on that list did attend, but chose not to check-in, visit or in any way confirm their stated interest in helping to operate. Any semblance of working/planning a pre-set schedule went out the window.

From the time we went on the air Saturday to the very end Sunday, we had to "wing-it" the best we could to keep both SSB stations on-the-air. Anyone who stopped by the SSB tent and showed even a minor interest in being there was put to work at some point.

After Field Day I heard indirectly of an individual reportedly speaking on behalf of themselves and a "few others" complaining that "they" did not get an opportunity to get on the air. I've heard this before, in fact credited to this same person who did not spend time anywhere near the SSB shelter this year.

Let's have everyone put on their "big girl" or "big boy" pants and take responsibility for their own actions, or lack of action next year. Volunteers who willingly chose to help "On-The-Air" are always needed and greatly appreciated.

Ron O'Connor KD7VIK, Field Day Coordinator

HAMFESTS & CONVENTIONS

3 - 5 August 3-5, 2012
2012 Pacific Northwest DX Con.
 Monarch Hotel
 Clackamas, Oregon
 Willamette Valley DX Club
wvdx.org/DxConvention/2012_RegForm.pdf

25 October 2012
CLARK COUNTY HAM FAIR
 Clark County Amateur Radio Club
 Clark County Square Dance Center
 10713 NE 117th Avenue
 Vancouver WA 98660
www.w7aia.org
 Talk-In: 147.240 & 443.925 (PL 94.8)
 Wade Kight WB7RDE
 4209 NE Morrow Road
 Vancouver WA 98682
 360.232.4601
wb7rde@yahoo.com

31 May 31 - 2 JUNE 2013
31ST ANNUAL SEA-PAC CONVENTION
 NW Division ARRL Convention
 Seaside Convention Center
 Seaside Oregon
 C. Wayne Schuler AI9Q
 16414 NE 21st Street
 Vancouver, WA 98684
 360.892.5580
ai9q@arrrl.net

Beginning in September, the HAMFESTS & CONVENTIONS column will be found at our site www.otvarc.org.

Your business advertising in THE OSCILLATOR is seen each month by more than 200 members who read THE OSCILLATOR. To include your "Business Card" ad (\$48.00 annually) or "Display" - HRO size ad (\$60.00 annually), contact Maureen O'Rourke at 503.591.9641.

The Technology Amateur Radio Club (TERAC) meets next on Thursday, September 13th.

Max's Fanno Creek Pub, 12562 SW Main St. #100, Tigard, Oregon.

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HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAY

| | | |
|----|---------------|---------|
| 5 | John Bucsek | KE7WNB |
| 8 | John M. Hays | KD7OHK |
| 16 | Jim Blanchard | W7HOW |
| 17 | Gene Bartsch | WI7N |
| 21 | Ken Haynes | K7KRH |
| 25 | Doug Knight | K9WSF |
| 29 | Barbara Curry | No Call |

Did we miss your birthday? Drop a note to:
otvarc@gmail.com

OREGON TUALATIN VALLEY

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POST OFFICE BOX 5471

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AUGUST LUNCH BUNCH

Saturday, August 25 at 1:30 pm

August Lunch Bunch
 Helvatia Tavern
 10275 NW Helvatia Rd
 Hillsboro, Or 97124
 503.647.5286

Talk In: 147.54 MHz Simplex
 Questions? Linda KC7YTD
kc7ytd@gmail.com
 503.372.6286

97123762955

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CLUB MEETING
AUGUST 16TH

~~Al and Mary Berg
795 St. Louis Ave
Hillsboro OR 97123-7629~~

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SEA PAC

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Seaside Oregon

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www.seapac.org

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<http://seapac.org/registration/registration.php>

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